

- MR. K. PADMANABHAN :
 480. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,940 for Sub-Inspectors of Police by Re. 1
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 MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
 482. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,40,316 for establishment by Rs. 32,000.
 MR. S. J. NAIR :
 483. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,02,153 for District Police by Re. 1
 MR. S. NILAKANA PILLAI :
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 486. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,02,153 for District Police by Re. 1
 MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
 487. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,02,673 for District Police by Re. 1
 MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI :
 488. To omit the total allotment of Rs. 7,48,423 under Demand IX.
 MR. S. J. NAIR :
 489. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,48,423 under Demand IX by Re. 1
 MR. S. THIRVIAM NADAR :
 490. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,48,423 under Demand IX by Re. 1
 MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI :
 491. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,48,428 under Demand IX by Re. 1
 MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI :
 492. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7,48,423 under Demand IX by Rs. 10
 MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI :
 493. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 6,48,428 under Demand IX by Rs. 10

The question that a sum of Rs. 7,48,423 *minus* Re. 1, be granted under Demand IX—Police, was then put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND X—FOREST.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 7,52,848 under Demand X—Forest.

Motion No. 494.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*): Sir I move:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,80,000 for royal trees by Re. 1.

I wish to urge the necessity of taking action on the part of the Government to give *kudivita* due for royal trees cut from the Edavagai of the Edapalli Chief to the actual holders of the lands and not to the Edapalli Chief.

In the case of lands held directly under the Sirkar, the *kudivita* is given to the holder of the land. 50 per cent. of the net value of the trees in the holding is given to the actual holder of the land. The principle underlying is that when the royal trees are grown in the holdings it is not possible for the holder of the lands to cultivate the

lands beneath the tree. At the same time, the holder will be paying the tax to the Sirkar. If the holder cuts away the branches of the tree, charges will be framed against him. Though it will be causing inconvenience to the holder in cultivating the land beneath the tree, he cannot cut a branch of the tree.

In the case of lands held under the Edapalli Chief, the *kudivila* is given to the Chief and not to the holder of lands. The owner of the land, in whose holding the tree grows and who is incapacitated from cultivating the ground beneath the tree and who is also at the same time paying tax to the Edapalli Chief, is not able to get anything under the existing circumstances. Under the Estate Rent Recovery Regulation the holder of the land under the Edapalli Chief is given all the rights which a holder of the land under Government is entitled to get. So much so by a curious interpretation of the law bearing on the subject, the department is at present paying the *kadivila* to the Edapalli Chief and the actual holder of the land gets nothing. I move this motion to bring to the notice of the House and Government the injustice caused to a holder of the land under the Edapalli Chief.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Let me make my position clear. You say that there is a law on the subject and according to that law the holder is not given anything.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*) : According to the Estate Rent Recovery Regulation, the holder of the lands under the Edapalli Chief is given all the rights of a holder of land under the Sirkar.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : What does it say about *kudivila*?

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*) : In the case of Government lands, *kudivila* is given to the holder of the land and the tenant under the Edapalli Chief does not get this advantage. *Kudivila* is given to the Edapalli Chief.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Has that claim been contested in a court of law?

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*) : It is not necessary. The rule is very clear and I say the *kudivila* given to the Edapalli Chief is an irregular procedure. I want Government to do things in the right direction and see that *kudivila* reaches the actual holders of the land and not the Edapalli Chief.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Sir, Edapalli is one of the five Edavagais in the State. The Government have no concern with the internal management of the Edavagais. Mr. Sivaraman Nair wants that the holders of the lands in the Edavagai should be given the *kudivila* on royal trees. The lands in the Edavagais are registered to peoples under different tenures and it is not known under what conditions. Before *Kudivila* claims are settled, a notification is published in the Gazette showing the details of the claims and all those who have any counter-claims are invited to prefer

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

their claims also. So far, no tenant has come forward with any counter-claim. They tacitly admit the claim of the Edavagai for the *kudivila*. There is thus no necessity for the department to take action on this matter.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Nominated*): May I know to whom should the *kudivila* go. Is it to the owner or the proprietor?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We pay it to the Chief. The tenants under the Chief have not come forward for getting any *kudivila*.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum - Rural*): Does the same practice exist in all the other Edavagais, either in Poonjar or in Kilimanur?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I think so.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): What is the procedure adopted in the Kilimanur Edavagai?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no difference in procedure. So far, no complaint has come from the tenants holding lands in those Edavagais.

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*): *Kudivila* goes to the owner of the lands in the case of Sirkar holdings, but if it is in the case of an Edavagai holding, *kudivila* goes to the Edapalli Chief. According to the Estate Rent Recovery Regulation, the holder of the land is entitled to the same rights and privileges as in the case of a holder of the land under the Sirkar. I only want to bring to the notice of the Government the injustice that is being meted out to the owners of the lands under the Edapally Chief.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Can not this matter be agitated in a court of justice?

MR. R. SIVARAMAN NAIR (*Tiruvalla II*): Surely, Sir. But this is a matter in which this House is competent to pronounce an opinion. I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government all these facts. So I do not press the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion No. 495.

The following motion was not made.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI:

495. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,37,300 for timber and other produce removed from forests by Government Agency by Re. 1.

Motion No. 496.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I move:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,98,900 for Conservancy and Works by Re. 1.

My object is to discuss the absence of proper conservancy works in the Forest Department and the case of the Conservator of Forests committing trespass into the Reserve Forest and constructing an *anicut*.

and cutting a *thodu* to water his paddy fields, without Government sanction.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I am inclined to rule out the motion, as it stands, out of order. For, the object of discussing this matter is different from what the honourable member wants to do by the specification of the grant in the agenda paper.

MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad) : Shall I explain, Sir?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : No. If the member says that the Conservator of Forests commits a trespass on the forests I must frankly say that I am unable to understand what it means.

MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad) : May I explain, Sir?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. S. J. Nair, if you want to explain, although it is belated, considering the importance of the subject, I am prepared to allow you to make a very brief statement.

MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad) : With respect to the trespass into the Reserve forest, and constructing an *anicut* and cutting a *thodu* to water his paddy fields without Government sanction, what I submit is this. There is already a case pending in the Huzur Secretariat in regard to this matter. It has been pending for several years in the Secretariat. The file is being hidden there.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon I) : May I know whether it is against the Conservator of Forests or against Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai?

MR. S. J. NAIR (Nedumangad) : Against Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai, the Conservator of Forests.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. S. J. Nair says that, there is a case pending in the Secretariat against Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai. The Secretariat, is to my mind, not a body which takes cognisance of cases. That apart, according to Mr. S. J. Nair's own statements this case is against Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai and not against the Conservator of Forests. If A or B commits a trespass into the forests, the ordinary law is enough to be applied in that particular case. The Conservator of Forests cannot in law commit trespass into the reserve forests. Further, if there is any officer, high or low, in Government service who has been guilty of an act, an officer who has done anything against the interest of Government, there are appropriate methods for proceeding against him. The discussion of the budget is for a different purpose. There is a Demand before the House the object of which is to enable the administration of that particular department to go on. That has nothing to do with Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai's alleged illegal action. Hence I rule out the motion.

Motion No. 497.

The following motion was not moved.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

497. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,98,900 for Conservancy and Works by Re. 1.

Motion No. 498.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I move.—

To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,300 for travelling allowance.

to discuss the necessity of the compulsory retirement of the Conservator of Forests.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I rule out that motion. An Officer gets a salary and also, in certain cases, a travelling allowance. The omission of travelling allowance does not mean that the salary is to be omitted. Therefore the motion is out of order.

Motion No. 499.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I move.—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,300 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

to discuss the difficulty that the registry-holders of paddy fields inside the Reserve are experiencing, in the absence of issuing licenses to collect green manure to cultivate their paddy fields.

The holders in Reserve forests are entitled to get license for collecting green manure for the cultivation of paddy fields. There are several agriculturists who have obtained large areas of paddy fields registered in their names inside the Reserve Forest and who are paying tax and who are cultivating them. A vast portion of these paddy fields lies, inside the Reserve Forests. They used to obtain the license also for collecting green manure. That practice was in existence for some time back. But, for some mysterious reasons, the present Conservator of Forests refuses to grant licenses whenever they apply. As a result of the refusal of granting license to collect green manure by the Conservator of Forests, the agriculturists in those places are put to a lot of difficulties. Without green manure, it is not possible to conduct paddy cultivation. These paddy fields are situated inside the Reserve Forests. There is no cart road leading to the paddy fields inside the forest. It is not possible for the agriculturists to construct cart roads through the Reserved Forests as the Conservator would do. So it is not possible for the agriculturists to transport manure from registered areas outside the Reserve Forest through the Reserve Forests to places where they cultivate paddy inside the Reserve Forests. Under the rules, they are entitled to get the licenses for the purpose. But, whenever they apply, even though the license system is not actually discontinued, for no reason, they are being denied, and hence several agriculturists owning thousands of acres of paddy fields inside the Reserve Forests are put to a lot of difficulties in the absence of getting these licenses. In order to bring to the notice of the House the serious hardship that the poor agriculturists experience today as a result of the refusal to grant the license, I move this motion for the consideration of the House.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kallulam II*): May I know whether license is refused to only registered holders within the Reserve Forests or even to others?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Other people can have manure either from their own compounds or from the compounds of other people. But in this case people cannot transport the manure. They are compelled to have green manure from inside the forests. The Conservator of Forests also owns lands inside the Reserve Forests.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Conservator of Forest does not own lands. He is an officer of Government.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): For example, Mr Dhanukoti Pillai owns lands adjoining the Reserve Forests in Nedumangad taluk. He does not experience any such difficulty because the Reserve Forest is situated adjacent to his paddy fields and he has constructed a cart road, an *anicut* and a *thodu* through the forest in order to carry on his cultivation and benefit his private lands.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please keep in view the scope of the motion.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Why I mention the name of Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai is because he is a registered land-holder in my taluk. He does not find any difficulty with regard to the collection of green manure in order to cultivate his own lands, whereas the poor peasantry in Nedumangad taluk is put to untold difficulties and sufferings.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What has that to do with the Forest Department? The member may ask for greater facilities being afforded to all people.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I have been submitting from time to time that the poor agriculturists who own registered paddy fields inside the forests have been undergoing a lot of difficulties as a result of the unsympathetic attitude continually adopted by the Head of the Forest Department in denying the repeated requisition for licenses to collect green manure. In order to point out this serious hardship to the agriculturists in my taluk and also in various other parts of the State I move this motion.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnathnad I*): May I know whether they were getting these licenses before?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): They were getting it some time back. Now mercilessly and ruthlessly the Conservator of Forests refuses that right which they were enjoying.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, this subject of removing manure from inside the Reserve Forest is not new either to this Assembly or to the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. It has come before the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly several times before; and as a result of that, Government went into the whole question and after getting information from the several taluks, they have passed orders classifying the reserves as timber-producing forests and scrub jungles. With regard to the scrub jungles, people were allowed to remove head loads of manure after obtaining permits from the forest officers. To remove manure leaves in cart loads, they have to pay a fee of four annas per cart. With regard to the timber-producing forests, no manure leaf is allowed to be collected. But Mr. S. J. Nair said that it has been the practice in the Nedumangad taluk for

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permits being issued for the collection of manure. It was true to some extent. There was a Ranger who, without understanding the rules on the subject, by mistake, issued permits.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know what action has been taken against that Ranger who violated the rules of the Department?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He was punished; and other subordinates who were conniving in the illegal removal of manure leaves were also punished. The forest referred to by Mr. S. J. Nair is one of the timber-producing forests wherefrom manure leaves are not to be collected.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Then how can they carry on agriculture?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They have to grow their own manure leaf trees or go in for other cultivations which could be carried on without green leaf manure.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nelumangad*): May I know the method of cultivating inside the forest without green manure?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): They should grow *Vaha*, *Konnai* and such other trees.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): റിനർവ്വ ഫാറസ്റ്ററിലുള്ള ചതുപ്പനിലങ്ങൾ കടികൾക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിനോടു ചേർന്ന് ഏതാനും കരകൾ കൂടി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുക പതിവില്ലേ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഇപ്പോൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. മുൻപ് അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യാറില്ല.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ഇങ്ങനെ കരകൾ കൂടി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നത് കൃഷിക്കാചശ്യമുള്ള വളങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു സൗകര്യമായിരിക്കുകയല്ലേ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽ അവിടെ കന്നുകാലിവളം ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിനാവശ്യമുള്ള സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുക, തൊട്ടത്തു മുതലായവ കെട്ടുക എന്നിങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കാണ് ഉപയോഗിക്കുക.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): മുൻപ് പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്ത നിലം ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുകൂടി കറേ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നത് അവർക്കു കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു വളരെ സൗകര്യമായിരിക്കുകയല്ലേ? ഇത്തരം സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൂടി കിട്ടാതെ അവർക്ക് എങ്ങനെ കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ സാധിക്കും?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): മുൻപ് കരയില്ലാതെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്ത നിലങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ അല്ല;

ആയിരക്കണക്കിനും ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിനും ഉണ്ട്. ഇവകളെല്ലാം സർവ്വ ചെയ്യ കല്പിച്ച് പ്ലാൻ തയ്യാറാക്കി അച്ചടിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇവകെല്ലാം ഇപ്പോൾ കോ സ്ഥലംകൂടി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുക എന്നുള്ളത് വാഷ മമേറിയ ഒരു പ്രശ്നമാണ്. പുത്തൻ തി ചതുപ്പനിലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾകൂടെ പ ിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആ ലോചിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. സർക്കാരിന്റെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയെക്കൂടെ ആശ്രയിച്ചുനിൽക്കുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യമാണു മെമ്പർ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): സ്ഥലംകൂടെ അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാതെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്ത നിലങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷിക്ക് പ്രയാസം നേരിടുന്നതാണെന്നു മെമ്പർതന്നെ സമ്മതിക്കുന്നല്ലോ? ആ നിലയ്ക്ക് അങ്ങനെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തവയ്ക്ക് കുറെ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾകൂടെ പ തിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടെങ്കിലും കൃഷിയെ പാലിക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അതിനുള്ള സമാധാനം ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ചില നിലങ്ങളുടെ സമീപത്തുള്ള മാർജിൻസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കുടികൾക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറായിരുന്നിട്ടും അതു പതിച്ചു വാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ ആളുകൾ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു. ചിലർ, ഇങ്ങനെ പതിച്ചുവാങ്ങിയ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പിന്നീട് മരവയ്ക്കുകയോ, വളങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയോ ഒന്നുംചെയ്യാതെ കേവലം തരിശാക്കിത്തന്നെ അത്തരം സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ നിരുപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): With regard to the personal matter referred to by Mr. S. J. Nair, I am glad that I have got an opportunity to explain the position. I have never been collecting manure leaves.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I want to prevent Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai from making that statement. But for the information of the House I may say that it is not for one member of the House to make any accusation against another member on the floor of the House; and I did not permit Mr. S. J. Nair to do so. When such is the case, I do not see any reason why Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai should take it upon himself to answer points which do not really go against him. Anything of a personal character which Mr. S. J. Nair began to state has lost its force, so far as this House is concerned, because of the ruling. So on any point which is not legally before the House, I do not think Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai should take upon himself to give any answer. But any short statement may be made if it is considered absolutely necessary.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): But at the same time if any impression has been created by Mr. S. J. Nair's speech, —

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai is speaking in his individual capacity or on behalf of Government? I want a definite ruling from the Chair on the subject.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: When a ruling is asked for, it means a definite ruling; and if Mr. S. J. Nair is prepared to withdraw the word "definite", I am prepared to give a ruling.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I am prepared to withdraw that word.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: My ruling is that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai sits here in this House as an official member as the Conservator of Forests and he is here on behalf of Government. If the Conservator of Forests knows facts about Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai in the matter of this case, that may have to be placed before the House. But this is not the opportunity to answer a personal accusation of one member made against the person of the Conservator of Forests.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): In so far as some statements have been made against a particular member and in so far as that finds a place in the records and also because that must have produced some impression in the minds of the members, may I know whether it is not fair and just that the Conservator of Forests who happens to be Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai may be allowed to explain the position?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I find that there is a general desire on the part of the members of this House to enable Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai to make a statement. Such being the case I shall permit him. But this shall not be taken as a precedent. Elaborate discussion on personal matters cannot be allowed.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I am not removing any manure from the Reserved Forests.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I question it.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I want to make only a personal explanation. I keep a number of cattle and it is the cattle manure that I am using. I have also planted a number of *konnai* trees on a large scale and they are now coming up splendidly and it is from these and other trees standing *within* the Estate that green manure is collected.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I question that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The word "question" in this connection is not quite parliamentary.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, in the reported proceedings of the various parliaments of the world, we find such expressions as 'question' and 'shame' used.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. S. J. Nair has no right to make any commentary on that. I may say, for Mr. S. J. Nair's information, that the word "shame" has been pronounced to be unparliamentary by competent bodies and also the word 'question'. I have looked up authorities and I made a definite statement.

Does the member press the motion?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): My only request is that the Government must be pleased to look into the question of the poor agriculturists. It is conceded by the official member that there are persons who hold thousands and thousands of acres of paddy fields within the forest area, but they do not hold any land surrounding those paddy fields and it is practically difficult for them to collect any manure and cultivate their fields. So in the matter of the development of paddy cultivation by these poor agriculturists, Government must take necessary steps to see that they are enabled to get sufficient green manure. With these words, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Motion No. 500.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Sir, I move:—

“that the allotment of Rs. 2,300 for travelling allowance be reduced by Rs. 5.

The object of my motion is to suggest the abolition of the Quilon Forest Division.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. The motion is to omit Rs. 5 out of Rs. 2,300 for travelling allowances; and the object of the motion as stated is to be to discuss about the abolition of the Quilon Forest Division. Is it in order?

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Only by travelling the Conservator can see whether the existence of the Quilon Forest Division is necessary.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Probably it may be said that only if the Conservator moves more frequently in the Quilon Division he may know whether there is the necessity for a separate Assistant Conservator for that Division.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): If that is so—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no question of if and so. I rule that the motion is in order.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): The object of my motion is to suggest the abolition of the Quilon Forest Division and the amalgamation of it with the Shencotta Division which could be effected without any loss of efficiency. There is the Railway and there are other facilities of communication between Quilon and Shencotta. Therefore it would be easy for one officer to go from one end of the Division to the other easily.

Again, Sir, by the abolition of the monopoly on royal trees, the work has considerably decreased in the Quilon Division, and the revenue is also going down a year by year. The total area of the reserve forests in the Quilon Division is roughly 155 sq. miles and a large portion of that area comprises portions of the reserves of the Shencotta Division and the Trivandrum Division. Sir, these portions can easily be added to the respective Divisions which are closer to them.

Sir, the first zone of the monopoly on royal trees was over in 1108 and the second zone is to be completed in two years' time. A large

[Mr. K. P. Krishna Menon]

portion of the Quilon Division is on the western side of the M. C. Road where the monopoly has already been abolished. So by the abolition of the Quilon Forest Division what I would suggest is that one of the Assistant Conservators who will be set free can be appointed as a full-time Utilisation Officer who can study the market and also conduct sales in all the Depots of the State, so that we may get the maximum price for our timber. By this arrangement, the work of the present Divisional Forest Officers can be reduced and they can devote their attention more for conservation and improvement of the forest.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Is not the present Conservator doing that work?

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): He is doing the work. If he had gone into the matter in detail, he would have been able to find out the defects. My suggestion therefore is that the Quilon Forest Division should be amalgamated with the Shencotta Forest Division and one of the Assistant Conservators, who would be relieved thereby, should be appointed as a full-time Utilisation Officer to find out market and also to get better prices for our timber. Sir, by the abolition of monopoly on royal trees our revenue is going down; and unless more attention is bestowed on conservation, I think our revenue from the Forest Department will be very little in future. So I think this is the only way in which we can meet the future requirements of our country. With these words, I commend the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, this is also not a new subject to come before the Government. The Salaries Retrenchment Committee, which was appointed some time ago, went into the whole question and they were satisfied with the reasons advanced by the department; and as a result of that, they accepted the abolition of the High Range Division in preference to the Quilon Division. Sir, the fact is, it is in the Quilon and Shencotta Divisions we have intensive working being carried out under carefully prepared working plans. Both these Divisions yield together five to six lakhs of rupees.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether it was before the proposed abolition of monopoly on royal trees?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The question of royal trees does not come in here. The number of royal trees removed in Quilon Division is very small. The revenue derived from this is comparatively insignificant.

I have been saying that the revenue of the Quilon and Shencotta Divisions together comes to five to six lakhs; and to entrust the collection of so much revenue to one officer is a thing which has been seriously thought of and it was found not advisable. Apart from that, it is in these two Divisions that we have the working plans which have been worked rather intensively and scientifically.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether sales in one and the same depot are conducted by two Divisional officers?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is only a question of adjustment to suit the convenience of the officers.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Then what is the necessity of two officers to conduct sales in one and the same place?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not a question of sales. It is a question of management.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Is it not a fact that many of the reserve forests are lying continuous to one another in both these Divisions?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is exactly the point. These officers have to go about and carry on intensive work. It is not possible for one officer to go to both Divisions. With regard to sales, I may say that the work is comparatively light. But as a matter of adjustment any one of the officers conducts the sales as the timbers of both the Divisions go to the same Depot and there is one auction for both Divisions. That is only a matter of adjustment. It does not lighten their work. If the two Divisions are amalgamated, then the amount of work the Divisional Officer will have to do and also the amount of revenue for which he will be responsible will be too much for one man to manage. Mr. Menon suggested that, on account of facilities of Railway communication and all that, both the Divisions should be amalgamated. It is a matter whether such an extensive area can be brought under one Division. The old Quilon Division was bifurcated on account of the intensive work to be carried on in the two Divisions.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): What is the working plan that the member referred to?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I will explain. The whole Forest area is divided into so many coupes and one coupe is taken up for exploitation every year. Contracts are given for the extraction of timber from such coupes and the Divisional Officer has to go and see whether the method of felling of the trees, the conversion of timbers and other matters are carried on properly.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether any working plan has been sanctioned for the next year?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As for that matter, excepting for the minor forests, there are working plans for the whole of the Quilon Division.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether by the appointment of a special Utilisation Officer, the work of the Divisional Officers cannot be reduced and they may be asked to do better supervision?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): During the time of Conservator Mr. Subramonia Aiyar, there was a proposal to have a separate officer for selling timber. But the question was considered whether one officer going from one end of the State to the other will be able to do the work satisfactorily. There was so much of opposition to this proposal and the matter was dropped.

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

If the two Divisions are amalgamated and one Divisional Officer is appointed for the two Divisions together, the work will be too much for him. So I oppose the motion.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): I do not press the motion.

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Motion No. 501.

The following motion was not moved :

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON :

501. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,309 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1, to discuss the future development of the Forest Department.

Motion No. 502.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha cum Devicolum*): I move that the allotment of Rs. 2,309 for travelling allowance be reduced by Rs. 1.

The object of the motion is to bring to the notice of Government the necessity of throwing open larger areas in the Kanni Elam tract for cardamom cultivation.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it not a question of policy? Unless the member's suggestion is that, if the Conservator and others went into the forest, the necessity would not have arisen.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha cum Devicolum*): My point is that, if the Conservator had made sufficient travels he would have understood the necessity for giving out larger areas for cardamom cultivation. The present practice is to give only such lands as have once been leased out and where cardamoms are still growing. Sir, the total area of this Kanni Elam tract is about 25,000 acres. This area is not fit for any crop except cardamom. Some years ago, portions of this tract had been leased out on *Kuthakapattom*. Under that lease, it was open to the lessee to surrender the land whenever he chose. Originally, the rent was Rs. 2 per acre. Lately, it was raised to Rs. 4 per acre, and the period of the lease was fixed as 20 years.

In olden days, Sir, very few people took to cardamom cultivation, so that the area that was actually planted with cardamom was not much. Now that paddy, coconut and pepper have ceased to be profitable crops, our people are anxious to try cardamom. The Conservator may argue that Government propose to register away about 50,000 acres near Pallivasal for cardamom cultivation. Sir, there is great difference between those lands and the lands comprised in the Kanni Elam tract. The Pallivasal land is to be assigned by the Land Revenue Department and we will have to pay *taravila* of about Rs. 60 per acre, whereas the Kanni Elam tract can never be assigned away on payment of *taravila*. It can only be leased out. This tract is mostly within the taluk of Todupuzha; and the people of Todupuzha, Meenachil and Kottayam would prefer to have this land. It will be very difficult for the people of these parts to go to Pallivasal or Devicolum for cultivating cardamom.

Further, the cardamom produced in the Kanni Elam tract is entirely different from that produced in large quantities in Pallivasal and Devicolam. The Kanni Elam cardamom is peculiar to Travancore and is not available anywhere else, whereas the other is Mysore cardamom.

Moreover, since our people did not take to cardamom cultivation in olden days, the industry is almost entirely in the hands of foreigners who own almost the whole of the cardamom area in Devicolam and Pallivasal side. As I said, our people are now anxious to take to cardamom cultivation more and more. Of course, it is not easy for them to go to Pallivasal and Devicolam; and they do not want to do it when enough land is available in the Kanni Elam area. But, unfortunately, whenever this land is applied for, the Conservator summarily rejects the application on the ground that more land out of the Kanni Elam could not be thrown open for cardamom cultivation. Sir, one can understand such objection from the Conservator if the cultivation of cardamom is in any way, likely to work against the conservation of forests. Sir, shade is absolutely essential for cardamoms, so that no cardamom cultivator can be expected to cut down the trees in the area.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): How much of this Kanni Elam tract is now under cardamom cultivation?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha cum Devicolam*): About 1,000 or 2,500 acres.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know the total area available for cardamom cultivation, in that tract?

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha cum Devicolam*): There are about 25,000 acres in all; the whole of it is suitable for the cultivation of cardamom.

As I said, Sir, this is the only land available for Travancoreans for cardamom cultivation, since foreigners have almost monopolised the cultivation of cardamom in the other area, in Pallivasal and Devicolam. It is not easy for Travancoreans to get land there for this purpose.

I therefore request the Government to consider seriously the necessity of throwing open larger areas in the Kanni Elam tract for cardamom cultivation.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, cardamom was, formerly, the monopoly of the Government. In those days, Government permitted people to grow it in the present High Range Division and such area in that Division as was brought under cardamom cultivation was known as *Makara Elam* Tract. The cultivation of cardamom was permitted also in the lands lying on the western side of the Periyar. But, on account of the climatic conditions in this area, the cardamom used to get ready only by about Kanni, so that this area came to be known as the *Kanni Elam* Tract. The cardamom grown in this tract was smaller in size, and the yield also was much poorer; but the species was the same as that grown in the High Range Division, although Mr. Narayana Pillai seems to think otherwise. The main reason for the difference in the yield and in the size is the comparatively low level of these lands. These are only about 2,000 feet above sea level while the lands in the *Makara Elam* Tract are about 4,000 feet above sea level.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Triandrum—Rural*): May I know the proportion of the yield in this Kanni Elam Tract as compared with the other tract?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As I said, many people did not take to cardamom cultivation in the Kanni Elam Tract, so that the yield there varied from 5 to 25 *tulams* a year. In the Makara Elam Tract, the yield was several thousand *tulams*.

Sir, when the cardamom monopoly was abolished and large tracts in the High Ranges were registered for cardamom cultivation even the small portion of the Kanni Elam Tract that was then being cultivated with cardamom was practically abandoned. At that time, the Forest Department took charge of both the Makara Elam and the Kanni Elam Tracts. The lands in the Makara Elam Tract were handed over to the Land Revenue Department, the Forest Department having control over the trees alone. Over the Kanni Elam Tract, the Land Revenue Department had no sort of control. It was entirely with the Forest Department. We were able to make some money by leasing out the lands that used to be cultivated with cardamom in the days of the monopoly. I am speaking of 1914, Sir. But, in spite of the leases, although the people executed the *Mutchalikas* they never cultivated the lands nor paid us the rent. Our total revenue from this area was very small, only about Rs. 300 or Rs. 400, the rent being only Rs. 2 per acre. As the price of cardamom went up, people used to ask for more of these lands; and as the price went down, they used to abandon the lands. The rent was never paid regularly.

Some years ago, it was represented in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that the renewal of the lease every 3 years was a great hardship to them. So, Government ordered that, instead of short leases for 3 or 4 years at Rs. 2 per year, the parties should be given long leases for 25 years at the rate of Rs. 4 per annum. In spite of this arrangement, the lessees were not regular in payment; on the other hand, they were regular in defaulting. In every case, we had to enter into long and never-ending correspondence. We, therefore, revised the Rules and insisted on one year's rent being paid in advance. Still, the parties never paid regularly. Even now there are arrears.

Now, there is a boon for cardamom cultivation: and Mr. K. A. Narayana Pillai has come forward with the suggestion for throwing open more lands in the Kanni Elam Tract for cardamom cultivation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): What is the default due to?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Nobody takes to this cultivation here seriously.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Is there no provision in the lease deed to enable the Government to recover the rent?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is. We revised the Rules and made it obligatory on the parties to furnish property security. Still, we have not been able to enforce the Rules, since it involves so many complications.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Tivandrum-Rural*): What is the area under cardamom cultivation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): About 1,500 acres.

Sir, coming to the present motion, we want this land to be maintained as a common forest to regulate the climatic conditions in the State. This region is the source of some of our important rivers like the Periyar and the Moovattupuzha rivers. If the jungle is cleared, the rain water may not be retained, and the people lower down would be prejudicially affected. No doubt, the Government may get some money by leasing out these lands; but that should not be our sole objective.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha cum Devicolum*): How much of these 25,000 acres is required for maintaining the present climatic conditions?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The opening up of any substantial portion of this tract is sure to cause damage to the people lower down.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Has the land to be cleared for cardamom cultivation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The clearing that has to be done is sure to affect the water in some of our important rivers.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tirvalla I*): Has the member personally inspected this tract of land?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have been in the High Range Division for 3 years, and I can speak with some authority on this matter, Sir.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Why is it that the Government propose to allow the registry of about 50,000 acres in the Santhanpara *pakuthi*?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That was the region which has been yielding all our cardamom both before and after the monopoly, Sir. It has all along been under cardamom cultivation. We have nothing to gain by conserving that land.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha cum Devicolum*): I withdraw the motion, Sir.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

The House adjourned at 4.56 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,

Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.